

REMARKS

Consideration of this Preliminary Amendment is requested prior to the completion of the Examiner's examination of the above-captioned application.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the courtesy accorded to his undersigned representative during a series of telephone interviews regarding the above-identified application between 9 July 2004 and the present date. During the course of these interviews, the Examiner indicated to the Applicant's undersigned representative that the claims of this application appeared to be allowable. The Examiner also indicated, however, that the English language phraseology of the claims as filed was unclear and would have to be clarified (and/or rephrased) before he could make a final determination concerning the allowability of this application. It is Applicant's representative's understanding that agreement now has been reached (subject to such further consideration and/or search as the Examiner may deem necessary) to the effect that the claims as hereinabove amended are in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, early completion of the Examiner's consideration of this application and allowance of the present application as hereinabove amended is respectfully requested in response to this communication.

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Applicant also believes that additional fees are not required in connection with the consideration of this communication. However, if for any reason a fee is required, a fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed for any excess fee paid, you are hereby authorized and requested to charge and/or credit Deposit Account No. **04-1105**, as necessary, for the correct payment of all fees which may be due in connection with the filing and consideration of this communication.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: August 18, 2004

David A. Tucker
SIGNATURE OF PRACTITIONER

Reg. No. 27,840

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